



Yavapai-Apache Nation Child Care Center

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February 25, 2021

Ellen Wheatley, Acting Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Wheatley:

This letter describes how the Yavapai Apache Nation CCDF Program plans to use the Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA Funds for activities in the following categories:

1. Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

The Yavapai Apache Nation recognizes the need for parents/guardians whom are considered frontline responders to the coronavirus and plans to provide assistance to these families as well as all eligible families in our service area. The Lead Agency has waived the co-pays for all parents enrolled in our program as well as new families. Those whom are frontline are welcomed to apply for services with our program and are able to select from local childcare centers in our area. Currently, our tribal center is close due to the pandemic and anticipates a reopening in April 2021. Therefore, all families needing direct childcare are assign to a local center or with a family home

provider in which the lead agency does support and certify based on the Tribal CCDF Minimum Health and Safety standards and the requirements set by our Regional IHS Department of Environmental Health that follows Caring for Our Children Standards.

2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

The Lead Agency is close for direct services, however is still operating the Home Care Program. The Lead Agency plans on the purchasing of tablets for all provider homes to continue training online so that providers maintain the required hours of annual training as well utilizing the tablets with children that are continuing remote learning in their care. The Lead Agency provides weekly deliveries of food supplements to the children in their care as well learning activities and needed PPEs items that families find hard to purchase during this time (ex: diapers, wipes, masks, disinfectants, bleach, sanitizers) supplemental funds from the CRRSA allows the Lead Agency to continue this distribution to our families. The Lead Agency has also contracted with a local cleaning company that provides disinfecting services to our tribal center, homes and centers providing direct care for our CCDF families. Funds will be also use to hire a consultant that will develop an emergency preparedness and disaster recovery plan for the Yavapai Apache Nation that will include all tribal departments and communities.

3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

CRRSA Funds will be able to continue assistance to our home care providers and centers by providing supplies and financial assistance to enable our centers and homes to remain open and continue direct services. Funds will be used to provide paid time off should a child care home provider be possibly exposed, experiencing after effects from vaccination, experiencing symptoms or caring for a household member. The lead Agency will also utilize funds to create a wellness program for employees and providers to ensure the holistic wellbeing of all who care for children.

4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

CRRSA funds will be used in the recruitment of new providers in a newly establish home development in our service area. The Yavapai

Apache Nation has recently opened a new development and at this time, we have no providers to assist new tribal families moving into these homes. Funds will be used in the recruitment of providers, background and drug tests, start-up and placement of children in these established childcare provider homes. Due to the pandemic, the Yavapai Apache Nation was forced to close our tribal recreation center that served our age group of the lead agency. The tribal recreation department was a department that the CCDF program had not worked with prior to the pandemic and with the need of after school care needed by our community families. Funds will be used to assist this department in providing after school care when children are transitioning from remote learning to back in school teaching.

5. Other

CRRSA funds will be used to expand outdoor play area to allow for social distancing. Playground equipment and shade will be purchased as well as storage to provide the secure keeping of outdoor play items. The centers will also contract to have the removal of our carpet in the centers so that sanitation of floors will be easier and more effective. Should a child experience symptoms during the day an isolation space is also planned to isolate a child until a parent/guardian is notified and the child is picked up. The lead agency would also like to purchase a van for the tribal center so that the lead agency can provide transportation to and from the center and school.

In conclusion, the Yavapai Apache Nation is grateful for the award of these funds. We look forward to continue to meet the needs and goals for providing the best quality child care services to our people during these harsh times of the pandemic. This award creates hope for our children, their families and for the Yavapai Apache Nation.

Respectfully,

Ophelia Tewawina,
YAN Daycare/CCDF Mgr